

doi: 10.3978/j.issn.2095-6959.2020.03.028

View this article at: http://dx.doi.org/10.3978/j.issn.2095-6959.2020.03.028

· 综述 ·

## 急性髓系白血病中FLT3基因突变的研究进展

江伟, 高玉娟 综述 苏雁华 审校

(哈尔滨医科大学附属第一医院血液内科, 哈尔滨 150001)

**[摘要]** 急性髓系白血病(acute myelogenous leukemia, AML)是一种常见的造血系统恶性肿瘤。AML患者中约有30%会发生FLT3基因突变, ITD突变是最常见的FLT3突变类型之一。携带FLT3-ITD突变的患者具有高白细胞的表现, 并且预后不良。越来越多的证据表明FLT3突变状态在疾病整个过程中持续进展, 因此早期对FLT3突变的诊断可更好地了解患者的病情, 实现针对性治疗。同时, FLT3抑制剂对改善AML的治疗效果非常重要。

**[关键词]** 急性髓系白血病; 预后; FLT3-ITD; FLT3抑制剂

## Research progress of FLT3 gene mutation in acute myeloid leukemia

JIANG WEI, GAO Yujuan, SU Yanhua

(Department of Hematology, First Affiliated Hospital of Harbin Medical University, Harbin 150001, China)

**Abstract** Acute myeloid leukemia (AML) is a type of malignant tumor of the hematopoietic system. Approximately 30% of AML patients develop FLT3 mutations, one of the most common types of FLT3 mutations, and patients with FLT3-ITD mutations have high white blood cell counts with poor prognosis. There is increasing evidence that the FLT3 mutation status continues to progress throughout the disease, so early diagnosis of FLT3 mutations is better for understanding of patient's condition and targeted treatment. At the same time, FLT3 inhibitors are very important to improve the therapeutic effect of ALL.

**Keywords** acute myelogenous leukemia; prognosis; FLT3-ITD; FLT3 inhibitor

急性髓系白血病(acute myelogenous leukemia, AML)是一种常见的成人急性白血病, FLT3突变是AML中最常见的基因突变之一<sup>[1]</sup>。FLT3突变被认为是驱动基因突变和预后不良的标志, 该突变作为AML的治疗靶点, 促进了人们对FLT3抑制剂

研究, 但FLT3抑制剂作为单一用药不能持久用于抗白血病治疗, 其长期疗效受原发或继发获得性耐药的影响<sup>[2-3]</sup>。Stone等<sup>[4]</sup>研究表明: FLT3抑制剂联合其他药物可以有效改善FLT3突变的AML患者预后, 因此FLT3抑制剂需要联合其他药物来治疗

收稿日期 (Date of reception): 2019-06-26

通信作者 (Corresponding author): 苏雁华, Email: suyanhua163@163.com

基金项目 (Foundation item): 黑龙江省卫生厅基金项目 (2007-171)。This work was supported by the Foundation Project of Heilongjiang Health Department, China (2007-171).

*FLT3*突变的白血病患者。本文旨在探究*FLT3*突变在AML中的病理、预后作用和近期*FLT3*抑制剂的最新进展以及对*FLT3*抑制剂的耐药机制。

## 1 AML中的*FLT3*突变

*FLT3*是一种第三类受体酪氨酸激酶,通常由造血干细胞或祖细胞表达,在骨髓和淋巴系发育的早期阶段起重要作用。未激活的*FLT3*与配体结合后被激活,并通过PI3K, RAS和STAT5信号通路促进异常细胞的增殖和分化<sup>[5]</sup>。约30%新诊断AML病例中出现*FLT3*突变,包括ITD和TKD突变<sup>[6-7]</sup>。*FLT3*-ITD以*FLT3*受体的近膜结构域和/或TKD1中复制序列的形式出现,其在结构域内的位置和长度各不相同。高危的*FLT3*-ITD是一种驱动突变,具有高细胞表达,且预后不良<sup>[8]</sup>。最新研究<sup>[9]</sup>表明:*FLT3*是AML中最常发生的突变之一,*FLT3*-ITD是具有中等风险核型AML患者中最常见的驱动因素之一,进一步支持其作为驱动突变的证据。

## 2 *FLT3*突变对新诊断的AML预后的影响

与无突变的患者相比,*FLT3*-ITD突变的患者预后较差,复发风险较高,总生存期(overall survival, OS)降低。Port等<sup>[10]</sup>分析表明:*FLT3*-ITD突变的AML患者的OS和无复发生存期(relapse-free survival, RFS)显著降低。相反,*FLT3*-TKD突变对AML患者预后的影响却尚未明确。一些研究发现*FLT3*-TKD突变与AML患者的预后有关,而另一些研究结论却相反<sup>[11]</sup>。突变体与野生型(wild type, WT)等位基因比率、插入位点、ITD长度、核型以及*NPM1*基因突变与否进一步影响*FLT3*-ITD对新诊断*FLT3*-ITD突变患者的预后。有研究表明,*FLT3*-ITD的等位基因负荷较高时患者预后较差,而有些研究中则表明与预后无关<sup>[12-13]</sup>。Thiede等<sup>[14]</sup>评估新诊断的*FLT3*-ITD突变患者预后,发现*FLT3*-ITD突变和WT比率>0.78与较低的OS和无病生存期(disease-free survival, DFS)有关。在对新诊断的*FLT3*-ITD突变患者的另一项研究<sup>[12]</sup>中,高等位基因比率( $\geq 0.51$ )和*FLT3*-ITD在TKD1中插入位点与患者的低完全缓解(complete remission, CR)率和较差的存活率有关。以上两项研究中患者均未使用*FLT3*抑制剂。Stone等<sup>[4]</sup>在高*FLT3*-ITD和低*FLT3*-ITD等位基因组AML患者中使用米哚妥林与安慰剂,发现使用米哚妥林对高和低突变体的患者均有效。而Linch等<sup>[13]</sup>却发现复发风险与等位基因比

率无关。等位基因比率对患者的预后影响仍存在争议,需要进一步的研究。而*FLT3*-ITD中其他相关变量如*FLT3*-ITD突变的碱基,大小及其插入位点均与患者的预后有关<sup>[15]</sup>。

## 3 *FLT3*突变对复发/难治性AML预后的影响

复发性AML在最初诊断时未发现*FLT3*-ITD突变,复发后出现并进一步影响患者的预后。在克隆进化过程中*FLT3*突变的机制尚不清楚,*FLT3*-ITD突变虽在初诊时检测不到,但突变赋予其存活优势,使其在复发时成为主导,尤其在化疗之后更是如此。Bacher等<sup>[11]</sup>研究显示:近20%治疗后的AML患者在复发时发现*FLT3*-ITD和/或*FLT3*-TKD突变,AML复发时*FLT3*-ITD突变比*FLT3*-TKD突变更常见,这表明*FLT3*-TKD突变可能比*FLT3*-ITD突变的患者更具药物敏感性。研究<sup>[16-17]</sup>表明:*FLT3*-ITD突变的AML患者即使接受造血干细胞移植(hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, HSCT)预后也很差,且预后效果与*FLT3*-ITD等位基因比率有关。Wattad等<sup>[16]</sup>表明:经过HSCT的*FLT3*-ITD突变的AML患者复发风险较高,并且经过HSCT患者的OS与*FLT3*-ITD等位基因比率有关。Schlenk等<sup>[17]</sup>研究发现:*FLT3*-ITD复发的患者在标准强化治疗中获得第2次CR的可能性非常低,且持续具有高*FLT3*-ITD等位基因比率的患者即使在HSCT后,预后也很差。然而,随着疾病从诊断到复发,也可能发生其他克隆的演变。由于AML在复发时更具寡克隆性,这导致*FLT3*信号转导携带多种不利的基因突变。AML的预后也受特定突变的基因组合影响,携带*NPM1*突变的患者在没有*FLT3*-ITD突变或低等位基因比率*FLT3*-ITD的情况下预后良好,而当出现*ASXL1*和*RUNX1*突变时则预后不良<sup>[18]</sup>。虽然*FLT3*-ITD突变的AML患者的预后受多种因素影响,但有研究<sup>[16]</sup>表明复发时*FLT3*-ITD突变是诱导化疗失败的一个重要因素。

## 4 *FLT3*抑制剂

*FLT3*抑制剂主要通过竞争性抑制*FLT3*受体中的ATP结合位点,导致细胞周期停滞和分化。*FLT3*抑制剂分为第1代(如索拉非尼和midostaurin)和第2代*FLT3*抑制剂(如quizartinib和gilteritinib)。第1代*FLT3*抑制剂对*FLT3*的特异性较低,有较宽的激酶组特性和更多的脱靶效应。相比之下,第2代*FLT3*抑制剂在对*FLT3*抑制方面更具特异性和有

效性<sup>[19]</sup>。

#### 4.1 第1代抑制剂——索拉非尼

索拉非尼是FLT3-ITD的一种抑制剂,但对FLT3-TKD1和FLT3-TKD2突变没有作用。Zhang等<sup>[20]</sup>对16例患者的I期试验报告显示:口服索拉非尼可降低3例FLT3-WT和6例FLT3-ITD<sup>+</sup> AML患者的复发率,但携带FLT3-D835的患者,无论是否同时存在FLT3-ITD突变,均无效。索拉非尼联合氯法拉滨和阿糖胞苷治疗儿童复发/难治性急性白血病表现出良好的抗白血病活性和耐受性,83.3%的患者治疗效果良好,6例患者(3例FLT3-ITD<sup>+</sup>, 3例FLT3-WT)达到CR<sup>[21]</sup>。在Ravandi等<sup>[22]</sup>的I/II期研究中,索拉非尼,阿糖胞苷和伊达比星联合治疗65岁以下初发AML患者,83%的FLT3-WT患者和95%的FLT3<sup>+</sup>患者达到CR或部分缓解,包括有D835和ITD-D835突变的患者,表明联合治疗可使D835突变体对索拉非尼敏感。Röllig等<sup>[23]</sup>在随机的双盲II期临床试验中发现:267例60岁以下的初治AML患者随机接受化疗联合安慰剂或索拉非尼,3年内两组患者的OS差异无统计学意义,但接受索拉非尼治疗的患者DFS和RFS明显增加。

#### 4.2 第2代抑制剂

##### 4.2.1 Quizartinib

Quizartinib与第1代药物相比,是一种选择性更强的FLT3抑制剂,因此较少出现脱靶效应,但它对FLT3-TKD突变的患者无效。每日服用Quizartinib的76例复发/难治性AML患者的I期研究<sup>[24]</sup>发现其对53%的FLT3-ITD<sup>+</sup>患者和14%的FLT3-WT患者有效。Tallman等<sup>[25]</sup>通过II期研究对76例FLT3-ITD+复发/难治性AML患者中两种较低剂量的quizartinib单药治疗的疗效和安全性进行评估,患者被随机分组为每天接受30 mg或60 mg的quizartinib,结果显示每组50%的患者达到CR。Cortes等<sup>[26]</sup>在一项针对333例复发/难治性AML患者的II期临床试验中也得出了类似结论。Bowen等<sup>[27]</sup>对55名新诊断的AML老年患者(中位年龄69岁)给予quizartinib联合化疗进行研究,结果显示:在42名患者中,33名达到了CR,进一步证实了quizartinib联合化疗的疗效和安全性。以上研究均证明quizartinib在治疗复发/难治性的AML患者中的安全性和有效性。

##### 4.2.2 Gilteritinib

Gilteritinib是FLT3和AXL的双重抑制剂,对

FLT3-ITD和FLT3-D835突变均有效,并同时抑制与FLT3抑制剂耐药相关的AXL激酶<sup>[28]</sup>。在Perl等<sup>[29]</sup>的包含252例复发/难治性AML患者的I-II期研究中,gilteritinib的耐受性良好,37%的FLT3-ITD+患者和9%的FLT3-WT患者达到CR,而之前接受过索拉非尼治疗的患者,54%的FLT3-ITD-D835突变患者达到CR,这证明gilteritinib可以克服AML患者对FLT3抑制剂产生的耐药性。

## 5 FLT3抑制剂的耐药性机制

虽然研究者在FLT3抑制剂的研制上取得了重大进展,但耐药性的出现给其带来了巨大的挑战<sup>[30]</sup>。FLT3-WT对FLT3配体敏感,并对FLT3抑制剂具有耐药性。因此,携带FLT3-WT的FLT3-ITD突变患者易对FLT3抑制剂产生耐药性。在给予患者FLT3抑制剂治疗过程中,骨髓微环境中发现较高水平的FLT3配体,这导致FLT3/MAPK通路持续被激活<sup>[31]</sup>。而持续激活FLT3的MAPK和STAT5下游通路,已被证明与FLT3抑制剂耐药性有关<sup>[32]</sup>。Dutreix等<sup>[33]</sup>发现血浆中药物浓度不足或细胞色素P450A4(CYP3A4)酶在肝的快速代谢可能导致FLT3抑制剂治疗效果不佳。微环境因素也可能影响白血病细胞对抑制剂的敏感性。骨髓基质细胞中表达的CYP3A4酶加速了药物代谢和骨髓微环境对FLT3抑制剂产生耐药性的过程。

## 6 结语

基因组学研究为AML患者的治疗奠定了基础。上述研究揭示的几种驱动突变与AML的发展和复发密切相关,而基因组技术的进步和AML数据库的建立,证明了FLT3突变患者不良的预后和高复发率<sup>[34]</sup>。虽然FLT3抑制剂对FLT3突变的患者早期起到了良好的效果,但患者会逐渐对其产生耐药性,疾病迅速复发。单一的FLT3抑制剂疗法不能实现持续的临床效果,这可能是因为需要不止一个突变的基因来驱动AML的进展。因此,成功治疗AML需要多基因的靶向治疗。2017年,美国食品药品监督管理局(Food and Drug Administration, FDA)<sup>[35]</sup>批准使用4种新药治疗AML。在FDA批准的新药物中,多激酶抑制剂米哚妥林被批准用于联合化疗,作为FLT3突变AML的一线治疗药物。Stone等<sup>[4]</sup>试验表明:米哚妥林联合化疗使患者的中位OS明显增加(联合化疗74.7个月,单独化疗25.6个月),这支持了联合治疗的

观点。对 *FLT3* 突变相关的关键信号通路差异的研究将有望为 *FLT3* 患者提供精准靶向治疗, 未来在这一领域的研究可能会发现新的治疗靶点, 这将改善 *FLT3* 突变的 AML 患者的靶向治疗组合<sup>[36]</sup>。

## 参考文献

1. Sakamoto KM, Grant S, Saleiro D, et al. Targeting novel signaling pathways for resistant acute myeloid leukemia[J]. *Mol Genet Metab*, 2015, 114(3): 397-402.
2. Larrosa-Garcia M, Baer MR. *FLT3* inhibitors in acute myeloid leukemia: current status and future directions. *Mol Cancer Ther*, 2017, 16(6): 991-1001.
3. Konig H, Levis M. Targeting *FLT3* to treat leukemia[J]. *Expert Opin Ther Targets*, 2015, 19(1): 37-54.
4. Stone RM, Mandrekar SJ, Sanford BL, et al. Midostaurin plus chemotherapy for acute myeloid leukemia with a *FLT3* mutation[J]. *N Engl J Med*, 2017, 377(5): 454-464.
5. Daver N, Schlenk RF, Russell NH. Targeting *FLT3* mutations in AML: review of current knowledge and evidence[J]. *Leukemia*, 2019, 33(2): 299-312.
6. O'Donnell MR, Tallman MS, Abboud CN, et al. Acute myeloid leukemia, version 3, 2017, NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology[J]. *J Natl Compr Canc Netw*, 2017, 15(7): 926-957.
7. Nagel G, Weber D, Fromm E, et al. Epidemiological, genetic, and clinical characterization by age of newly diagnosed acute myeloid leukemia based on an academic population-based registry study (AMLSG BiO)[J]. *Ann Hematol*, 2017, 96(12): 1993-2003.
8. Khaled S, Al Malki M, Marcucci G. Acute myeloid leukemia: biologic, prognostic, and therapeutic insights[J]. *Oncology (Williston Park)*, 2016, 30(4): 318-329.
9. Metzeler KH, Herold T, Rothenberg-Thurley M, et al. Spectrum and prognostic relevance of driver gene mutations in acute myeloid leukemia[J]. *Blood*, 2016, 128(5): 686-698.
10. Port M, Bottcher M, Thol F, et al. Prognostic significance of *FLT3* internal tandem duplication, nucleophosmin 1, and *CEBPA* gene mutations for acute myeloid leukemia patients with normal karyotype and younger than 60 years: a systematic review and meta-analysis[J]. *Ann Hematol*, 2014, 93(8): 1279-1286.
11. Bacher U, Haferlach C, Kern W, et al. Prognostic relevance of *FLT3*-TKD mutations in AML: the combination matters—an analysis of 3082 patients[J]. *Blood*, 2008, 111(5): 2527-2537.
12. Schlenk RF, Kayser S, Bullinger L, et al. Differential impact of allelic ratio and insertion site in *FLT3*-ITD-positive AML with respect to allogeneic transplantation[J]. *Blood*, 2014, 124(23): 3441-3449.
13. Linch DC, Hills RK, Burnett AK, et al. Impact of *FLT3* (ITD) mutant allele level on relapse risk in intermediate risk acute myeloid leukemia[J]. *Blood*, 2014, 124(2): 273-276.
14. Thiede C, Steudel C, Mohr B, et al. Analysis of *FLT3*-activating mutations in 979 patients with acute myelogenous leukemia: association with FAB subtypes and identification of subgroups with poor prognosis[J]. *Blood*, 2002, 99(12): 4326-4335.
15. Liu SB, Dong HJ, Bao XB, et al. Impact of *FLT3*-ITD length on prognosis of acute myeloid leukemia[J]. *Haematologica*, 2019, 104(1): e9-e12.
16. Wattad M, Weber D, Döhner K, et al. Impact of salvage regimens on response and overall survival in acute myeloid leukemia with induction failure[J]. *Leukemia*, 2017, 31(6): 1306-1313.
17. Schlenk RF, Frech P, Weber D, et al. Impact of pretreatment characteristics and salvage strategy on outcome in patients with relapsed acute myeloid leukemia[J]. *Leukemia*, 2017, 31(5): 1217-1220.
18. Gaidzik VI, Teleanu V, Papaemmanuil E, et al. *RUNX1* mutations in acute myeloid leukemia are associated with distinct clinico-pathologic and genetic features[J]. *Leukemia*, 2016, 30(11): 2160-2168.
19. Short NJ, Kantarjian H, Ravandi F, et al. Emerging treatment paradigms with *FLT3* inhibitors in acute myeloid leukemia[J]. *Ther Adv Hematol*, 2019, 10: 2040620719827310.
20. Zhang W, Konopleva M, Shi YX, et al. Mutant *FLT3*: a direct target of sorafenib in acute myelogenous leukemia[J]. *J Natl Cancer Inst*, 2008, 100(3): 184-198.
21. Inaba H, Rubnitz JE, Coustan-Smith E, et al. Phase I pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic study of the multikinase inhibitor sorafenib in combination with clofarabine and cytarabine in pediatric relapsed/refractory leukemia[J]. *J Clin Oncol*, 2011, 29(24): 3293-3300.
22. Ravandi F, Arana Yi C, Cortes JE, et al. Final report of phase II study of sorafenib, cytarabine and idarubicin for initial therapy in younger patients with acute myeloid leukemia[J]. *Leukemia*, 2014, 28(7): 1543-1545.
23. Röllig C, Serve H, Hüttmann A, et al. Addition of sorafenib versus placebo to standard therapy in patients aged 60 years or younger with newly diagnosed acute myeloid leukaemia (SORAML): a multicentre, phase 2, randomised controlled trial[J]. *Lancet Oncol*, 2015, 16(16): 1691-1699.
24. Cortes JE, Kantarjian H, Foran JM, et al. Phase I study of Quizartinib administered daily to patients with relapsed or refractory acute myeloid leukemia irrespective of FMS-like tyrosine kinase 3-internal tandem duplication status[J]. *J Clin Oncol*, 2013, 31(29): 3681-3687.
25. Tallman MS, Schiller G, Trone D, et al. Results of a phase 2 randomized, open-label, study of lower doses of quizartinib (AC220, ASP2689) in subjects with *FLT3*-ITD positive relapsed or refractory acute myeloid

- leukemia (AML)[J]. *Blood*, 2013, 122(21): 494.
26. Cortes J, Perl AE, Döhner H, et al. Quizartinib, an FLT3 inhibitor, as monotherapy in patients with relapsed or refractory acute myeloid leukaemia: An open-label, multicentre, single-arm, phase 2 trial[J]. *Lancet Oncol*, 2018, 19(7): 889-903.
  27. Bowen D, Russell N, Knapper S, et al. AC220 (Quizartinib) can be safely combined with conventional chemotherapy in older patients with newly diagnosed acute myeloid leukaemia: experience from the AML18 Pilot Trial[J]. *Blood*, 2013, 122(21): 622.
  28. Park IK, Mundy-Bosse B, Whitman SP, et al. Receptor tyrosine kinase Axl is required for resistance of leukemic cells to FLT3-targeted therapy in acute myeloid leukemia[J]. *Leukemia*, 2015, 29(12): 2382-2389.
  29. Perl AE, Altman JK, Cortes J, et al. Selective inhibition of FLT3 by gilteritinib in relapsed or refractory acute myeloid leukaemia: A multicentre, first-in-human, open-label, phase 1-2 study[J]. *Lancet Oncol*, 2017, 18(8): 1061-1075.
  30. Daver N, Cortes J, Ravandi F, et al. Secondary mutations as mediators of resistance to targeted therapy in leukemia[J]. *Blood*, 2015, 125(21): 3236-3245.
  31. Yang X, Sexauer A, Levis M. Bone marrow stroma-mediated resistance to FLT3 inhibitors in FLT3-ITD AML is mediated by persistent activation of extracellular regulated kinase[J]. *Br J Haematol*, 2014, 164(1): 61-72.
  32. Traer E, Martinez J, Javidi-Sharifif N, et al. FGF2 from marrow microenvironment promotes resistance to FLT3 inhibitors in acute myeloid leukemia[J]. *Cancer Res*, 2016, 76(22): 6471-6482.
  33. Dutreix C, Munarini F, Lorenzo S, et al. Investigation into CYP3A4-mediated drug-drug interactions on midostaurin in healthy volunteers[J]. *Cancer Chemother Pharmacol*, 2013, 72(6): 1223-1234.
  34. Papaemmanuil E, Gerstung M, Bullinger L, et al. Genomic classification and prognosis in acute myeloid leukemia[J]. *N Engl J Med*, 2016, 374(23): 2209-2221.
  35. Wei AH, Tiong IS. Midostaurin, enasidenib, CPX-351, gemtuzumab ozogomycin and venetoclax bring new hope to AML[J]. *Blood*, 2017, 130(23): 2469-2474.
  36. Staudt D, Murray HC, McLachlan T, et al. Targeting oncogenic signaling in mutant FLT3 acute myeloid leukemia: the path to least resistance[J]. *Int J Mol Sci*, 2018, 19(10). pii: E3198.

**本文引用:** 江伟, 高玉娟, 苏雁华. 急性髓系白血病中FLT3基因突变的研究进展[J]. 临床与病理杂志, 2020, 40(3): 718-722. doi: 10.3978/j.issn.2095-6959.2020.03.028

**Cite this article as:** JIANG WEI, GAO Yujuan, SU Yanhua. Research progress of FLT3 gene mutation in acute myeloid leukemia[J]. *Journal of Clinical and Pathological Research*, 2020, 40(3): 718-722. doi: 10.3978/j.issn.2095-6959.2020.03.028